

## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE 8/10/88FULL NAME PETER B. THORNTON SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)ADDRESS ALSO KNOWN AS BARRY \_\_\_\_\_CITY WILLIAMSTOWN STATE W.V. ZIP CODE 26187DATE OF BIRTH 8/42 (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE \_\_\_\_\_ (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION UNITED Church of Christ NATIONALITY ENGLISHOCCUPATION Body MAN - MULLEN MOTORS PARKERSBURG W.V.

EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_

WEIGHT 135# HEIGHT 5'6" RACE WHITECOLOR OF HAIR mostly Balding COLOR OF EYES BROWNOUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OR INTERESTS ENGLISH ACCENT - CRAVING + RAPIDLY

MARRIED OR SINGLE \_\_\_\_\_ CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SPOUSE WIFE DECEASED (Number, ages, and names, if possible)

## SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

UNIT #	CITY	STATE	POSITION	DATE REGISTERED	DATE RESIGNED
T 215	WILLIAMSTOWN	W.V.	S.M.	9/82	8/29/88

ID # 004024  
SPECIAL RECOGNITION \_\_\_\_\_

## SUSPENDED OR DENIED REGISTRATION FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

SEE ATTACHED - SUMMARY of INFORMATION AND  
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST LETTER of RECOMMENDATION

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION AND LIST ATTACHED  
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE OR SPECULATION):

CONFIDENTIAL

NOTED

231988

OCT 10 '88

F. STAPON

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

RS-509

4/14/83-nah

Signed

SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council

KOOTENAI AREA CO

FLB?

October 12, 1988

Mr. James P. Bopp  
Scout Executive  
Kootaga Area Council, No 618

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Peter B. Thornton

Dear Jim:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

ag

cc: East Central Region

READY TO FILE  
OCT 14 1988  
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF027710

COSENZA AND UNDERWOOD  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SEP 17 1988

PARKERSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26102

GEORGE J. COSENZA \*  
DAVID G. UNDERWOOD

TELEPHONE  
(304) 485-0990

\* ADMITTED IN WEST VIRGINIA AND OHIO

September 9, 1988

David K. Park, Esquire  
National Legal Counsel  
Boy Scouts of America  
National Office  
P. O. Box 152079  
Irving, Texas 75015-2079

Re: Peter B. Thornton

Dear Mr. Park:

I am in receipt of your letter of August 31, 1988, regarding the above-cited individual. Please be advised that my client only resigned from the Boy Scouts, because he was compelled to by the Kootaga Area Council - No. 618, as a result of the false allegations concerning child abuse, made by one of the children in his troop. Mr. Thornton was told that once the matter was cleared up, he would be fully reinstated as Scoutmaster. I, therefore, request that you indicate the steps that must be taken to satisfy the Boy Scouts' concerns in this matter, in order that Mr. Thornton be reinstated as Scoutmaster. You should be aware that these allegations are vigorously contested by my client and are, in affect, defamatory. While the Boy Scouts may feel it is necessary to exercise caution in this regard, I believe it is incumbent upon them to conduct an investigation, regarding these charges, and to make necessary restitution once the charges have been proven false.

Please let me hear from you, as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

George J. Cosenza

GJC/ljc

cc: P. Thornton

CONF027711

August 31, 1988

George J. Cosenza, Esq.  
Cosenza & Underwood  
409 Juliana Street  
Park Plaza Building  
Suite 3  
P.O. Box 2135  
Parkersburg, West Virginia 26102

RE: Peter B. Thornton

Dear Mr. Cosenza:

In response to your letter of August 15, 1988, please be advised that Mr. Thornton resigned from the Boy Scouts of America on or about August 15, 1988.

A copy of a letter to this regard is enclosed.

Very truly yours,

David K. Park  
National Legal Counsel

DK

Enclosure

cc: James P. Park, Council Executive

AG002/FC

CONF027712

COSENZA AND UNDERWOOD

P

GEORGE J. COSENZA \*  
DAVID G. UNDERWOOD

TELEPHONE  
304-485-0990

\* ADMITTED IN WEST VIRGINIA AND OHIO

August 15, 1988

Mr. Ed Dunn  
District Director  
Boy Scouts of America  
[REDACTED]

Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101

Re: Peter B. Thornton

Dear Mr. Dunn:

I have been retained by Mr. Peter Thornton, regarding his recent suspension from the Boy Scouts, based upon the allegations made by [REDACTED], a minor, concerning charges of child abuse. Mr. Thornton vigorously denies these charges and has asked me to do whatever is necessary to clear his name and reputation, in order that he can resume his work in scouting. I would appreciate it if you would contact my office, so that we can discuss this matter from the Boy Scout's point of view.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Very truly yours,

George J. Cosenza

GJC/ljc

cc: P. Thornton

CONF027713

# WATS CALL FORM

CALL BACK REQUESTED ☒

COUNCIL #

618

PHONE NO:



CALLER:

Jim Bopp

POSITION:

SE

## TYPE OF PROBLEM

REGISTRATION

VETERANS

EXPLORING

SCOUTING

BOYS' LIFE

UNIT #

DIST. #

EXP. DATE

TRANSMITTAL #

FILM #

Plan call - re - conf.

SE VILL  
CAV

PETER B. THORNTON

ATTORNEY FOR THORNTON WROTE  
LTR TO COUNCIL - WANTS TO DISCUSS  
SUSPENSION WHICH REALLY WAS RESIGNATION  
I SUGGESTED SENDING COPY OF LTR  
TO PARK FOR HAND IN RESPONSE.

P. Cant

8-24-88

NAME

Jim

DATE

8/2-3

TIME

R/S-433

3/13/86-clf-567r

CONF027714

CONFIDENTIAL

MARIAH A. TRAVIS, Ph.D.  
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

1126 MARKET STREET

PARKERSBURG, WV 26101

James P. Bopp  
Kootaga Area Council  
Boy Scouts of America

August 1, 1988

Parkersburg, WV 26101

For Professional Use Only

RE: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Bopp,

The Department of Human Services requested me to perform a psychological evaluation on [REDACTED] in July of this year. Referral questions had to do with his very poor school performance as reported by his school and father, and the question of possible sexual abuse. In order to evaluate these questions, I interviewed his father, was provided records from [REDACTED]'s school and the Department of Human Services, and spent six hours with the boy talking with him and administering a comprehensive battery of psychological tests. I also spoke with Dr. Steven Hanna, the physician with whom I had arranged a physical examination for [REDACTED] because of school reports of encopresis.

[REDACTED] flatly denied that he had been involved in any sexual activity with anyone, and specifically with the Scout Leader with whom he had spent "special overnights" at the man's home alone. Dr. Hanna reported that there was no physical evidence of sexual abuse evident during his examination of [REDACTED], and that the boy and his father denied that he was soiling his pants.

There is no concrete evidence that [REDACTED] is being sexually abused by his Scout Leader or anyone else. However, based on my clinical experience with sexually abused children, I believe that he is. I based my conclusions on his becoming encopretic when he joined Scouting, the lack of medical explanation for this behavior, his high potential for victimization or exploitation due to his past history of deprivation, physical abuse, and possible sexual abuse, and his isolation and alienation from peers partially due to learning difficulties and school problems. In addition, [REDACTED] lives with his father and 82 year old great-grandmother between whom there is considerable conflict over [REDACTED]'s parenting. The result is that he is inadequately supervised and disciplined. The close friendship between [REDACTED]'s father and Scout Leader has apparently led to insufficient supervision of the time [REDACTED] and his Scout Leader spend alone.

In conclusion, I have reported to the Department of Human Services my belief that [REDACTED] is probably being sexually abused and recommend that time alone with his Scout Leader should be terminated.

*Deleted from registration  
Added to CF file  
8/23/88*

CONF027715

August 1, 1988

Page Two

If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



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Mariah A. Travis, Ph.D.  
Clinical Psychologist

CONF027716



PETER B. THORNTON  
A.K.A. BARY THORNTON  
D.O.B. 8/42  
WIFE DECEASED

ADDRESS AS OF 8/10/88 [REDACTED], WILLIAMSTOWN, W.V. 26187  
OCCUPATION: BODY MAN  
EMPLOYED BY: MULLEN MOTORS PARKERSBURG, W. V.

5/26/88

ED DUNN, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE IN WASHINGTON DISTRICT CALLED S.E. AT 11:00 PM AND ADVISED HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY RUTH BARRY FROM WEST VIRGINIA HUMAN SERVICES [REDACTED] ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A SUSPECTED SEXUAL ABUSE SITUATION INVOLVING A SCOUT IN TROOP 215, CHARTERED BY THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WILLIAMSTOWN W.V. AND THE SCOUTMASTER PETER B (BARY) THORNTON. ED ADVISED AN APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN SET UP FOR 9:30 AM ON 5/27/88 AT THE SCOUT OFFICE WITH RUTH BARRY.

5/27/88

MEETING BETWEEN ED DUNN, RUTH BARRY AND JIM BOPP...  
MRS BARRY BEGAN BY GIVING THE BACKGROUND OF HOW AND WHY SHE FELT THERE MIGHT BE A PROBLEM, STATING THAT SHE WAS WORKING AS AN INTAKE WORKER AND HAD BEEN DOING SOME INVESTIGATION REGARDING THE SCOUTS FAMILY AND HAD LEARNED THE BOY HAD BEEN SOILING HIS PANTS FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. THE FAMILY SITUATION WAS SUCH THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT HE WAS BEING SEXUALLY ABUSED BY SOME MALE. FURTHER QUESTIONING REVEALED THAT HE WAS A BOY SCOUT AND HE SEEMED TO HAVE A GREAT AFFECTION FOR HIS SCOUTMASTER, BARY THORNTON. MRS BARRY INTERVIEWED THE BOYS TEACHER AND RECEIVED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT INDICATED THERE IS A STRONG BOND OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE SCOUT AND BARY THORNTON. THE TEACHER ALSO SHE HAS HAD UNEASY FEELINGS ABOUT THE SCOUTMASTER AND HIS WAY OF OPERATING THE TROOP, BUT HAS NOTHING TO SUBSTANTIATE ANYTHING. MRS BARRY REPEATED SHE ALSO HAD NOTHING BUT A "FEELING" THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING WRONG. SHE DID INDICATE THAT WHEN SHE ASKED HOW LONG THE BOY HAD HAD THE SOILING PROBLEM HE SAID FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS AND THAT HE ADMITTED HE HAD BELONGED TO THE TROOP FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.

ED DUNN ADVISED THAT HE HAD BEEN OBSERVING THE TROOP OPERATION FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS BECAUSE HE FELT UNCOMFORTABLE WITH BARY AND HIS MANERISMS, BUT HAD FOUND NOTHING OUT OF LINE WHEN HE TALKED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE TROOP EXCEPT THAT THEY WERE VERY AWARE OF SEX. ED ADVISED THE S.E. OF THE SITUATION WHEN HE CAME TO THE COUNCIL AND WAS ADVISED TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE TROOP AT CAMPOREES AND TO VISIT THE TROOP WHEN THEY COME TO CAMP AND TALK TO THE MEMBERS TO TRY TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS A PROBLEM. ED DID AND ADVISED THE S.E. THAT THERE SEEMS TO BE NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDER, JUST A GUT FEELING. HE DID MENTION THAT AT ONE TIME BARY CONTACTED HIM WANTING TO KNOW WHY HE WAS BEING "INVESTIGATED". ED FILLED MRS BARRY IN ON AS MUCH OF THE BACKGROUND AS HE KNEW ABOUT THE SCOUTMASTER.

JIM BOPP THEN ADVISED THAT BASED ON THE INFORMATION HE HAD AT

[REDACTED]

CONF027717



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

KOOTAGA AREA COUNCIL - NO. 618



August 15, 1988

Peter B. Thornton

Williamstown, WV 26187

Dear Barry,

I have been advised by Bob Dobbins, Committee Chairman and Scouting Coordinator for Troop 215, that you have resigned from Scouting.

Please find enclosed a refund of your registration fee.

Sincerely,

James P. Bopp  
Council Executive



# WATS CALL FORM

CALL BACK REQUESTED \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCIL #

618

PHONE NO:

CALLER:

111-5-5111

POSITION:

Area Director

TYPE OF PROBLEM

REGISTRATION \_\_\_\_\_

VETERANS \_\_\_\_\_

EXPLORING \_\_\_\_\_

SCOUTING \_\_\_\_\_

BOYS' LIFE \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT #

DIST. #

EXP. DATE

TRANSMITTAL #

FILM #

ID# 004024

~~VERBALLY RESIGNED~~

B/y 8/42

SM 50215

VERBALLY RESIGNED

MOORE TO Come From COUNCIL

Not added to CF file pending word  
from Council.

NAME

Plum

DATE

TIME